Ross Dowson – archives – Year 1977
Documents – Bold italics

01_01	Letter to The Editor, *Canadian Dimension*, re: the lack of protests against a previous Aronowitz article denying class nature of Canadian unions and the necessity of independent working class political action both in Canada and the United States
01_27	Letter to *Labor Challenge*, re death of South African militant Dora Taylor and the need for an appropriate obituary
02_01	Letter to the RMG, comrades, re: requesting their full article on Canadian imperialism in order to join in the invited discussion
02_01B	Letter to Joe Meslin, re: enclosing copy of TL article on Spector
02_07	Letter to Maurice (F., Vancouver), re: *LC* and *Old Mole* agonize over Steel union autonomy (Murray Dowson`s role in Quebec); thinking the ‘’German’’ way; women`s liberation work; the LSA-RMG relations document and their orientation to gay liberation
02_15	Letter to Reba (Hansen, SWP) New York, re: his activities; defending Art Preis on US labor against *CD*
03_11	Letter to Steve Penner, re: thanks for receiving full RMG article on Canadian imperialism
03_15	Letter to Ms Bolt, re: noting that Red Emma would also have harsh words about Bethune`s politics that condoned the murder of her co-thinkers in Spain
04_1	Letter to Maurice F., Vancouver, re: SL activities (*LC* cuts member out of York student election photo); Quebec-NDP a washout and Trotskyist left isolated; election of PQ renders LSA line bankrupt
04_05	Letter to Maurice (F.) re: whereabouts of Boag Foundation, publishers of Weaver`s ‘’Economics for Workers’’
04_05B	Letter to Pierre Broue, France, re: contact info on Polish ex-activist; providing details on Earle Birney and Kenneth Johnston
05_06	Letter to Maurice (F., Vancouver), re: support for moving the new constitution question into the NDP; May Day distributions, RMG-LSA division of labor in NDP election work
05_19	Letter to City of Toronto Parks Dep’t re status of Montague Park

06_05 Letter to Anne (D.) Rimouski, re: the election campaign, weekend at the camp; family matters (Jerry`s bad accident)

06_22 (Handwritten note) re: Abie's phone call; comrades cutting one another up

07_12 Letter to CBC Winnipeg, supplying names of persons active on the left in the 20s and 30s

07_12B Letter to Elaine B., Vancouver re: movement archives and B.C. contacts

07_15 Letter to Executive of Socialist League, comrades, re: the need for a full-time staff person for the bookstore and movement

07_22 Letter to Zane (B.) Haliburton, re: RD`s work experience in DCIEM; Dale`s educational and praise for the new Penner book

08_03 +Letter to Friends (LSA) re Camp tax bill; small income enough to cover maintenance; well must be repaired, break-in damage

08_15 Mail bulletin on SL activities, fund drive and educationals

08_18 Letter from Cy Gonick, Winnipeg, acknowledging his donation and solidarity

08_25 Mail bulletin on reports and educationals

09_1 (Handwritten letter) to John (G.): thanks for his clippings

10_00 ***Pamphlet: ''Quebec & the Canada Crisis; for a Constituent Assembly and a new Canadian Constitution***;'' Alienation of Québécois; The Native People; Federalists floundering

10_01 Letter to Darrell (LSA) re Camp Poundmaker: have not received tax share payments, nohelp from LSA in closing Camp for winter

10_02 Letter to Darrell, TSS&ES: problems with outstanding telephone bill, outstanding tax payments; am paying insurance bill in advance

10_ 11 Letter to Vic Hugh: enclosing correspondence to Darrell; help with maintenance needed

10_19 *(Handwritten letter)* to Art (Grey) re movement calendar

11_21 Note on Quebec, ''drawn up by RD for Fred (Callaghan – Steelworker local officer); on the meaning of the election of a PQ government

11_99 SL mail bulletin re: annual conference announced

12_00 *Forward* article, Nov-Dec. “The RCMP: myths and realities”
See: *Forward, 1977, Journals section*

12_13 ***Document: ‘’Notice under Libel and Slander Act`` by RD against the RCMP;*** legal document addressed to RCMP & Federal Department of Justice (SRDF)

12_13B Toronto *Globe & Mail* article: “Ex-official of socialist group sues the RCMP for slander” by Lawrence Martin

12_15 ***Document: ‘’Statement of Claim against Her Majesty the Queen”*** against slanders made by RCMP that the plaintiff had advocated changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means *(edited by R. Dowson) (SRDF)*

Ross Dowson , #2311
40 Homewood Ave, Toronto

January 1, 1977

Canadian Dimension

The Editor,

I was astonished in searching through issue Number 7 to find not a single word on the Aronowitz article that took up a full 12 pages of the previous issue. It demands, if not equal space, at least a protest.

Did every Dimension reader coming off the October 14 Day of Protest organized by the executive council of the Canadian Labor Congress dissociate that artic e from the Canadian trade union movement because of its title Trade Unions in America - meaning in typical imperialist chauvinist style - the U.S.A. - and not Canada or Mexico.

Aronowitz would not agree that he was not writing about the trade unions in Canada, which have built a labor party in the NDP and have committed themselves to socialism, because he unmistakably spells out a series of concepts that he considers characterize trade unions per se. In the first 3 pages he lays down: (1) "If the trade union remains an elementary organ of struggle, it is chiefly a force for integrating the workers into the corporate state system," (2) "the trade unions have become an appendage of the corporations because they have taken their place as a vital institution in the coporate capitalist complex. Their role as an organ of struggle has virtually expired," (3) "It is possible to remove union leaders and replace them, but it is not possible to transcend the institutional constraints of trade unionism itself," and (4) "The reasons for trade union impotence at the work place go beyond ideology. They are built into the sinews of the collective bargaining process," etc etc.

Crysal clear ! What is an obvious tendency on the part of the trade union leadership who of course are not an accidental encrustation on the unions, is defined by Aronowitz as an inevitable and an irreversible process, if not an irrefutable fact. There is only one problem . One of the components of the process is completely absent-- the working class, upon which the trade union bureaucracy including its most hardened variety depends, even to sell it out in order to become a part of the bourgeois corporate state, and by so doing place its own head on the chopping block as it did for Hitler.

That Aronowitz is not arguing against economism or for a revolutionary party is obvious from the section titled The Way Ahead what does h offer the workers who are already in the union movement and are being joined by young radicals? "Spontaneous revolt", at one point. He specifically

Way Ahead

warns the radicals that they are not, yes, not "to provide the ideological grist for rank and file insurgencies aimed at replacing incumbent leaders." "Most of all," he writes in condecension to the workers, "radicals can make conscious the political and cultural side of the revolt because it is these dimensions alone which can develop an internal cadre for new radical forms of workers' organizations within the work place and in society". Whatever that means, it doesn't mean in the U.S. to struggle for a rupture with the Democrats and the building of a labor party. This we would gather, for Aronowitze himself anyway, would be boring.

He would even preserve the dichotomy between the worker and what he calls the radical. "Will the workers follow the radicals instead of the bureaucrats? he asks and replies "Let's hope not." The radical, you see has a special place in the process. "His role is to generate thought, and when possible theory and action." What thought, what theory, what action is all terribly vague, much too vague for the doltish workers who unlike visiting radicals know that they really need unions with which to defend themselves and who will hafe to fight for a new leadership with a class struggle program

If the remnants of the New Left follow Aronowitz's advice, they will truly be as one punster put it New Leftovers.

Ross Dowson

(handwritten letter)

Jan. 27/77

Labor Challenge

Dear Diana Austman(?)

Thanks for the sad note on Dora Taylor's death.

An obituary must be written of her contribution to the African socialist movement but unfortunately I do not have the material to do it. The U.S. comrades or the international centre must do so.

This woman was one of the most able I have met. She always kept in the background and while I knew her was pushing Tabata to the forefront. But it appeared to me that she long played a leading role in the early days of the South African communist-Trotskyist movement, the days of Gordon Childe and Benjamin ? (one of the most imminent British mathematicians). Regretfully the pressure of other work blocked me from really getting to know her but she struck me as a really sophisticated theoretician and genuine leader.

If you haven`t told Joyce Meissenheimer in Vancouver – be sure to do so at once. Perhaps Joyce could pull some material together. Send her a copy of this note.

Fraternally,

Ross Dowson

(Handwritten letter)

Feb 1/77

RMG

Dear Comrades:

Back in your Oct/76 issue of Old Mole you invited discussion – specifically around excerpts from a draft program on the question of Canadian imperialism.

I am thinking of making a contribution on this matter.

I am wondering if what you published in that issue of the Mole is what you think essential – if in the process of placing it on the Procrustean bed of a monthly paper for general circulation you were not required to condense or cut out parts.

I would appreciate knowing if this is its entirety – or, if not if you would send me all that you had to say on this matter so that my contribution takes everything into account,

Comradely,

Ross Dowson
Forward Books
53 Gerrard St. W.,
Toronto

Feb 1, 1977

Joe Meslin

Dear Joe

I am enclosing with this note a short article that the very sectarian "Trotskyist" group the Trotskyist ? League has put out on Spector. I thought it would be worth while your giving it a perusal. Did I give or ~~h~~how you the essay that Gary C'Brien wrote on Maurice ? I have a copy on my ~~shelf~~ shelf with the envelope ~~marked~~ Joe Meslin. Did I loan it to you before. We printed a version in the November 74 issue of Forward

I am headed your way for that talk and I figure you should be prepared.

comradely

Ross Dowson

53 Gerrard Street West, Toronto (416) 595-1284

forward BOOKS

Feb. 7, 1977

Dear Maurice;

Sorry to be so long in answering your letter and acknowledging receipt of the copy of Gay Tide. I am really tied up in knots these days. Aby had to be sprung from the store and headquarters so that he could meet some deadlines that have been imposed on him at York. So I agreed to come in full time up until about February 15th. Naturally enough when you are here and the most available comrade many many more things rapidly commence to gravitate around you--distributions of the paper etc etc The early morning distributions of the paper at the various steel workers shops in the Toronto area have come off fairly well and we have been able to make a positive contributions to the Saldowski campaign. I suppose you have noticed the 180 degree about face of the Old Mole to generally our view---although of course as the LSA has done they make no explanation to their readers who might have followed their first line only to have it pulled out from uder them the following issue. Labor Challenge [redacted] just lifts from the Militant as if Canada did not exist. The Sadlowski group has tried to understand what we have told them about Canada in the hope that they would address themselves and thereby have some real impact. Sadlowski asked Murray Dowson to go to Quebec and help one of the top candidates build the campaign there--Murray was a steelworker and besides speaks French. We told them that they had to at least demonstrate awareness of the matter of a Quebec autonomous operation--all the more in the light of the PQ victory. The only connections they had was with some Lambertists who have some important trade union connections but not in Steel. They held a press conference in the course of which the Sadlowski man said he favored an autonomous Canadian operation. In the latest leaflet they have gone a little further than the first that recognized there "are differences and social problems for Canadian members." expressing the belief "that the decisions which affect Canadian steelworkers should be made by Canadians." It talks of the Canadian members publishing their own paper---Sadlowski revealed to one meeting that the international brass suppressed the issue on October 14 general strike---but enough.....

I thought Cynthia's contribution was right on---and Regula too who must have got a bang out of writing her letter. I am sure that her contribution is having a telling effect. With the ebb of the high-profile-radicalization much of the left is having to begin to think . The French style revolutionary dramatics is not working and those who are serious are having to learn ,as Lenin put it, to work in the German way--methodical patient, scientific etc.

Yes, abortion is the key issue. Do any of you out there belong to CARAL? It has called a rally convention in Ottawa

for Febraury 28 and 29th. Of course the Badgley Report will the be big issue. The big problem with CARAL here is that while it percolates along and has in my own view real possiblities, some [redacted] work has to be put into it to make it really move. Alas we do not have sufficient forces to allocate some real energy to it--and no one else is doing [redacted] any work but some petit bourgeois types. who thereby determine its character. In the old days the LSA used to move into such a scene and develop it but not any more--their role is keep in touch. Lynda's shift work has blocked her playing much of a role in the women unionists committee but fortunately Chris Judge has a job that brings her into the Public Services union and she will get moving there. Judy is actively involved in the NDP women's committee newsletter. Does Cynthia get this? If she does not she should wrote for it to Vi Thompson (Richerd's mother I think) at 22 Dentonia Park Ave. Toronto Priorities should get an exahange and write it up. I regret that I was only able to to read [redacted] Cynthia's contribution in the last issue of Priorites before giving it to Chris. The bundle has not come in yet for some reason and on the basis of the last issue Chris is now convinced that we missed one issue of the journal. No? P Last week I took some of the back issues from the store to the working women meeting to hand them out and introduce them to it. We have not really used that as we should. Chris will start to push it there. This operation is percolating along on a low key too but right now in a little flurry of activity. The next Toronto and District Labor Council is turning over its educational period to it. Lois Bedard my sister, will be chairing the panel that they are arranging in order to open up a dialogue with the delegates in the hope of involving their locals in raising the level of interest and involvement of their owmen members.

Yes and to tie up the Sadlowski comments on page one. We havent got the Sadlowski vote yet here in Canada unless Calvin can report at this evenings meeting. The administration with Williams swept Canada--first and foremost with the solid Quebec vote. Dcotier identified himself with the PQ and interestingly enough so did his Ontario sidekick on the Gozowski program the other night-Stu Cook. The big locals in Ontario have not yet reported their vote on Sadlowski but I gather from last talk with Calvin the ex Wafflers finally came through in Hamilton Stelco and Sadlowski won there--we dont yet know the vote in Sudbury where the local endorsed him so overridden have the reports by the local post interest. Calvin says that through the committee room they set up they have pulled together the makings of a rank and file steel caucus here.

Last week some anonomous RMGer in Vancouver sent us a copy of the LSA-RMG relations statement that they recently passed. He asks that we comment on it in our press and condemn it as unprincipled. I dont know that you can call the moves to fusion unprincipled when it involves two organizations which are members of a common international organization. The fact that they have not been united is unprincipled. But after reading it I would say that it is not been conducted in a serious Leninist -say Cannonist way. It is apparent that the RMG contrary to rumours has not moved to a more correct line on the NDP and it is obvious that the main impulsion is coming from the international and its needs and not from experiences of collaboration etc in this country on Canadian problems that are necessary to a genuine unity. The document comments about a harden opposition to any moves in this direction in Vancouver.--an obvious sectarian grouping .I gather from the Spartacists that the Lenin-Trotsky tendency has lost its Latin American connections and [redacted] Moreno of Argentina has set up a new tendency called the Bolshevik faction. --and that the majority tendency has now conceded that it was wrong on guerrillaism. The RMG has condemned the old RCT but then all those people have left and some form the core of the Trotskyist League. They say that the combined strength of the RMG and LSA is about 300 [redacted] both about equal size which is quite a comment when I understand that the GMR has made considerable gains in Quebec--[redacted] over a third of that total. Well the Quebec events in our view as you gathered from our edit have solved the question of a Quebec section--it must now be so

We are in the midst of an interesting discussion on Quebec right now. The next issue will be raising the issue of a constituent assembly not to keep Quebec in confederation but to reshape Anglophone Canada--it will allow us to raise in an effective way the whole issue of Canada's being a dependency of the US and the need to move off in a new direction--break from NATO-NORAD etc etc.

Thanks for the copy of Gay Tide. I must say I was disappointed in Stu Russell's contiribution. So flippant, yeah yeah, both in style and in content. When I first met him--he stayed at my place for a period before and during a convention I was struck by his dead seriousness, his interest in probing things--he was investigating all the various groups and their ideas. It was interesting to read of the play given to his involvement in Amchitka, which was truly a nationalist demonstration, in the light of his subsequent comments on it when the mob decided to reverse field and blast nationalism as bourgeois and reactionary. It is not even clear why he broke from the LSA to my mind, or very substantial---that the LSA has succumbed to bourgeois ideology on the question of gayness --waiting for the word from a venerated professor---???? then he imperceptibly slips over to their apparent questioning of the dynamic and future of the gay struggle---quite legitimate question it seems to me--to saying that they question whether gays should be encouraged to mobilize.. I havent seen any evidence of that. Both the LSA and RMG were out in force at the Damien defence meeting here a few weeks ago. I think that he is wrong when he says that the Bolsheviks took a "pro" homosexual policy. A revolutionary party doesn't need to say gay or hetro- should not sexuality is good--it just says that they are ok and identifies with the struggle for their rights....and above all seeks to establish their forces, the best of them in the ranks of the proletarian revolutionary vanguard party and its struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat. To my knowledge the LSA has identified with gay liberation--with the struggle for gay rights--but why the movement that is trying to unite the working class in struggle as a class against capitalism need identify specifically with "the creation of homosexual propaganda" is beyond me. The gay movement and the revolutionists in the gay movement can do that very well at the same time as they teach the gays , particularly their working class members the need to struggle for socialism. What is he going to do now--where will he take gays who he educates on the need for a socialist revolution and the essentiality of a revolutionary vanguard party to achieve that. Perhaps ~~thim~~ this interview he was not so well prepared to think things through I am not for whitewashing the left--from the NDP through to the Trotskyist League--but it seems to me that their policies and their various weaknesses are not why the close to 2 million Canadian gays see the left as irrelevant--- the relative stability of capitalism in Canada and the lack of revolutionary experience of the Canadian working class ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ including the gays--is the main problem.

But it is 7.25 and I must be at the meeting at 8 as I give the educational tonight.

comradely greetings to you all

Ross

E2-1977

Writer's Review

February 15, 1977
#2311 - 40 Homewood Ave
Toronto , M4Y 2K2

961-4554

New York

Dear Reba: (Hansen, SWP)

I have no idea where I was on Febraury 9th--but you have the correct phone number.

Of course - I would be very pleased to meet comrade barbara West, and if I should have anything that would be of use to the Library of Social History I would be quite happy to make it available. Could she just give me a couple of days notice so that we can arrange a get-together.

I am in excellent health as usual--and as active as ever. Alas, I have done little about writing much about the past as I am too busy in the present However with a break I may shortly be able to handle both. I have been trying to work as little as possible in the system but a job that I had that kept me in bread and butter was phased out in the cutbacks in the civil service. I am now hoping that a group of profs at a university will be getting the reserach grant that they applied for that would enable them to hire me for two or three days a week on labor and socialist research. I should know within the next few weeks.

Pleased to report that I have even found a little time to do some painting. Last summer and fall I painted a fresco on my partment wall of the Tunderbird snaticting fire from the sun for the Kwakuitil people which I thought was so successful that painted a large plaque and also all but finished a Nootka screen on a 4ft by 8ft plywood sheet for the camp. I now think that I have a real feel for BC totemic art and if I find the time I intend to start to do something original. In my opinion BC Indian art is of a higher form than the Mexican native art that so influenced Rivera.

I am enclosing a page from the largest circualtion journal in the Canadian left--Canadian Dimension --about 7,000 paid circulation--that contains a letter attacking an article that they reproduced by Arcnowitz. I am sure that it appeared in other new left journals. A section of this article attacks Art Preiss' book which of course I defend indirectly. I am now hoping to get in a major contribution on the NDP. Like a lot of the ultra lefts and sectarians this journal too is now rethinking the NDP. We will see.

I am suprised that you appear to think that I might not have wanted to help the library. I am the same as I was , But I am glad that you asked.

all the best

Ross Dowson

March 11, 1977
53 Gerrard St., West
Toronto
5951284

Dear Steve, Penner

Thanks very much for the full version of your statement on Canadian imperialism.

Unfortunately as has been happening far often since I came off staff of a movement I am having difficulty allocating time to take this matter up

I appreciate your kind offer to publish the article, when I finally get it off the typewriter, in the Old Mole. To be frank I had not thought of it appearing in the Old Mole, My intention was to publish it in the Forward, slanting the whole thing to its readership and of course ~~xxxxxx~~ only taking up those parts that you published in the Old Mole version.

That is still my intention. I will send you a copy when I am able to take it up

comradely

Ross Dowson

March 15, 1977
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Dear Ms. Bolt

I note from tonight's Star that you are working on a play on Norman Bethune.

I am enclosing a short article that I think that you will find interesting. There is nothing about Bethune himself in the article but it sets out the stage upon which he played. Needless to say Red Emma while paying tribute to Bethune's humanism would have had some harsh words to say about his politics--for he was not a revolutionist as she was but closed his eyes to if he did not actually condone those forces that murdered Emma's co-thinkers in Spain

Bethune in all the versions that I am acquainted with is certainly a paste board figure. Perhaps in your play you can pose the dilemma that he faced in Spain and his utter failure to face up to its revolutionary challenge

best wishes

Ross Dowson

April 1, 1977
#2311 - 40 Homewood Ave
Toronto

Flood
Vancouver

Dear Maurice;

Thanks for your rush information re a Quebec debate there. Unfortunately I received the letter the day after we wound up all the details of the current issue and sent it off to the printer. I am enclosing a copy for you.

A goodly number of the comrades got tied up and we relunctantly decided that this would be one of our issues missed. The biggest problem were that both of our editors were highly involved in projects--Harry's court cases--Wayne his regular courses plus a couple of extra assignments on Canadian culture which he did not want to pass up. On top of that our technical staff was tied up in the York election and the York paper--possibly you know one of our comrades is current editor and Paul Kellogg has put a lot of time into it as he will probably be the coming year's editor. Alice of course was the presidential candidate. The election was a big sucess with Alice's vote showing a continual rise in the ULS efforts. Of course with the Labor Challenge she was a non-person--they even cut her out of the picture wihth the successful Baord of Governors candidate in the style that Stalinism remade photos that showed Lenin and Trotsky standing together.

So your idea of another phone interview with Hilda or Robin isn't hitting us in the eye for this issue--but for the next issue. In the mantime I see from your letter the details of the ambitious project that it was. Or did the provincial council meeting of 26-27 ok its going ahead. It would be a drastic move on their part to cancel such elaborate and public plans--unless they made use of it for a wider showdown. I see Rosemary Browne as well as Hilda is much involved. How can such a thing go so far?

He apologizes to Lasalle's Dad that he was wrong in air safety that it was a Canadian question!

And how come Pierre Bourgault is tied in with Bourdouhxe. The continued leftward processes of the PQ government have made no one more irrelevant than a secretary of a Quebec NDP. The NDP is a washout in Quebec. I see Broadbent is going far to attempt to recoup something, to establish somekind of Quebec prsence for of course wiht hothing in Quebec the NDP cannot go anywhere in a confederation Canada. The fact is that a separate Quebec would probably much benefit the NDP with its strengths in Manitoba-Sask, BC and shortly in Ontario. It is the Liberals that Quebec is such a desparate phenomenon for ~~ihxm~~ All the so-called Trotskyist left were made assholes by the PQ election. Above all the Lembertists with their trying to hold up ~~the~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ the NDP and the labor party concept. The labor party slogan is out the window--the PQ is going to be the framework of that experience. I see Norman Penner carries that line very effectively in his excellent article in the last issue of Last Post which you should read.

I can see the LSA being relutant about the BC meetings. What have they to gain. Their position on Quebec is in shambles. Do you keep the LSA pre convention

bulletins. You will recall that for the record I insisted that a speech that I gave on Quebec in criticism of the Quebec resolution in draft form be published. Look it up. Aside from the bankruptcy of their fundamental line on the revolutionary character of independence as against my recognition of the possiblity and probability of a cold independence---what have they now to say---- that the PQ is a bourgeois party and the labor party concept in frontal opposition to the PQ is viable ? ...or their cries for recognition of the right of self determination when the PQ is practising it vey vigorously?

Shortly before we go to press with the May issue---somwhere around April 20 we must discuss this BC experience ----what happened with the speaking tour and where things stand--then we should phone Hilda or Robin. Yes that was a good interview that Hilda gave Gord. Fill us in before we make the call.

I got the clippings on the BC labor movement--when you think of it put dates on clippings, mate. I did not use them however as the material for the notes from wleewhere proved so good. We really need a correspondent for such mate ial. Do you think that we should approach Jerry Houle to write such material up for us. He is an experienced trade unionist and as far as I know is in general agree ment with our line. As you know it is very difficult to wrote up clued in material strictly from clippings from the bourgeois press. The BC labor movement presents some particular problems---it has always talked so left---but when it comes to act it is another thing.

We took a bunch of Priorities up to the NDP metro convention for last night and today's literature display. I intend to speak to our editors as to why we dont clue in more to the most important work that Priorities does...and of course Cynthia's excellent efforts.

warmest regards

Ross

April 5, 1977
#2311 40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2

Dear Maurice:

About a month ago I sent a letter to the BC NDP provincial office which enclosed another letter addressed to the Boag Foundation Ltd., Vancouver. I sent it to the NDP office as I figured someone there would know what had happened to the Boag Foundation and who held the copyright now to ~~xxxxxx~~ a booklet that Murray might consider publishing. We have not heard from either Boag Foundation or the BC NDP office.

George Weaver who you might have heard of prepared a Marxist study course on economics during the war. It was called Economics for Workers I have at hand an edition with an introduction by Weaver dated March 1949. ..Third Edition., published by the Boag Foundation Limited Vancouver, B.C. copyrighted 1942

As you possibly know the Boag's who died some years ago after long being supporters of the CCF left their home to the CCF as a sort of centre. It is not listed in the Vancouver phone book.

I am wondering if it might not be possible with very little effort if you could do us the favor of trying to trace the whereaboutsof the Boag Foundation Limited or any of its officers. We would need their permission to republish the pamphlet. I doubt that it would be very difficult-- It existed in 1942. I wonder if the Vancouver city directory now or then lists them--with the name of a manager of director. Possibly there is a directory of Limited companies in the library which would list officers who could be traced if the company folded up.

Anything you could do in this respect would be much appreciated.

comradely

Ross Dowson

I am sure the librarian would be very helpful & possibly supply all the answers

At the Metro Toronto NDP conference the LSA took on our call for a constituent assembly — a diversion from the need to be on guard against an invasion of Quebec! Now that Broadbent and Blakeney have made great praise of the Levesque regime I see a civil war of an unprecedented scope & duration with a fifth column right across the country. I see the PQ has now gone far on the language question & won the support of the ethnic groups there

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Mayfield Ave,
Toronto M4Y 2K2

April 5,1977

Pierre Broue
6 rue Saint-Ferjus, Grenoble, France

Dear comrade Broue;

With regards to your enquiries. I have only now manged to obtain the information that you wanted under question 30---information on a student Stefan, representative of the Polish section at the founding congress.

He is alive, his name is S. Lamed, he lives in Montreal-Here is his address: S. Lamed
39 Melbourne
Town of Mount Royal, Quebec.

My informant, who was also a leading activist in the Polish movement has met him. He works as a chemist at Sir George Williams University. He is not only inactive but I gather that he is only marginally interested. At the time of the congress he was a very prominent leader in the Polish youth movement and was elected to the executive committee of the International. I do not know whether he would mind if his name were published. Since I have supplied his address I would suggest that one of your comrades in Montreal could visit him, obtain all the information that you could possibly require and obtain permission from him as to how and what you could use

Earle Birney is alive and lives in Toronto. He is one of Canada's best known poets. He is in the process of writing his autobiography. He went to teach at the University of Utah in 1930 where as you note he recruited Joe Hansen and I think Myra Tanner Weiss to Trotskyism. However he was there over two periods and recruited them in the latter period. I gather in 1932 hetook a leave of absence to fulfil a residence requirement for completion of his Phd at the University of Toronto. It was in Toronto that he met Spector and the Canadian Trotskyist movement. He returned to Utah sometime before 1934 as he got into difficulty for his politics there in that year and left with a shcolarship to study at the University of London in England. There he was active in the British movement. It was in the end of 1935 that he went to Norway to intertew Trotsky. I do not know how long he stayed in England but I met him here in Toronto about 1937-38. He became executive secretary or national secretary of the movement very shortly after his return to Canada and until his resignation from the movement on January 12, 1940. He became gnerally demoralized and left as a sympathizer...with doubts about defence of the USSR and as he put it "about the revolutionary method...I am not sure but what the seeds of Stalinist bureaucratism were latent in Bolshevik organi xation itself"...he was a declared anti-Cannonite. The Canadian movement was in bad shape internally and unlike the situation in both the USA and England it was illegal

Axander's name is Kenneth Johnstone. He is stil alive, resides in the

Montreal area. He was with Birney in England and returned approximately at the same time as Birney. But he was not as committed or as active as Birney.and did not reside at the centre in Toronto but in Montreal for the most part. He remained involved in the movement in 1945-45-46 but gradually drifted away. He was a Canadian, ~~Finn~~ came to Trotskyism here in Toronto ..his whole family were active including his mother and sister who was married to Birney for a time. Johnstone was a petty bourgeois type whose work as a journalist was a considerable pressure on him. I would doubt that he should figure in anything that you would write about the movement.

But Birney and Lamed are a totally different matter.

I hope this information is what you wanted.

comradely

Ross Dowson

May 6, 1977
40 Homewood Ave, #2311
Toronto

Dear Maurice:

Thanks for the trouble that you went to in order to find out who Bogg Foundation is. We will be moving on this. A big help.

The paper will be off in a day or so--it is all written. Of course the big development id the success of the campaign for a new constitution. We will be featuring on the front page the new committee's statement which is fine---right on on Quebec--- except for it failing to show the possiblities of the great debate around it to ~~change~~ help change the thinking of the masses. The issue includes the first of three instalments of a new pamphlet we are puting out on the question. The demand is now well into the coming NDP convention--with Harney's support--and now all the others will carry it. Penner is quite enthusiastic. I dont know whether you ever did check out that extensive article he wrote in the previous issue of Last Post. It was in complete agreement with our line--labor party and all. The Steel convention also is helpful---

Had a long discussion with Ian Mackenzie. I think that he is prepared to write up or take a shot at BC trade union material. At our social i gained a good impression of his views and activity in the trade union movement--particularly on the important bankworkers developments. The following day the labor council held its May Day affair. Far bigger than they had anticipated from the chairs they set out--about 175 but they got 350 and it was not billed. We and the CP distributed our papers and finally the Communist League. No RMG and No LSA at all- Ridiculous but it figures.

The election is underway. Good old Rodd Davidson started off with a red baiting blast thus tossing all the loyal opposition appeals of the last two years into the waste paper basket. I understand that of course as political parties both the RMG and LSA are running candidates. Here the LSA has been puting a big effort into moving in and around the NDP--but of course they will be supporti g it by running against it in a riding or so. There appears to be a divsion of labor between them on NDP work.

All that is of little importance of course. Linda and I are taking over the canvassing of 40 Homewood as follow up of last time--a little deeper.

best regards to all of you

Ross

-77

Montague Park

May 19, 1977
#2311 40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2K2

Parks Department
City of Toronto

Dear Sirs;

I am the owner of a condominium apartment at the above address.

When I moved into that apartment I was given the distinct impression that a small space to the south of the apartment between it and an apartment called 140 Carlton Plaza was a public park. It would appear to have originally been a road from Jarvis to Homewood just north of Carlton. The land was laid out as a park with a cement slab walk access to the benches there from Homewood. I had the impression that the city of Toronto maintained it.

This week a steel fence was erected right across its front blocking off the cement slab walk and now I see that the walk itself have been removed and the space is being sodded. While one could still gain access to it by walking up the drive away of 140 Carlton Plaza it would now clearly appear to be an integral p rt of that address and strictly belonging to it. There is not ing that designates it as a park area either so that it has the complete and absolute appearance of being part of the privately owned Carlton Plaza.

Would you kindly inform me as to whether that area of land is provately owned by 140 Carlton Plaza or whether it is a park. And if it is the latter what your department is prepared to do by way of maling a clear deignation of the area as a park and making obvsious access to it from the street line of Homewood.

Thank you for your attention.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

June 5, 1977
2311 40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y2K2

Anne Dowson
Roz Masson
462 rue Cathedrale
Rimouski Que

Rimouski, Que

Dear Anne:

I have been trying to squeeze your letter into schedule and now can do so. I am waiting for some time to pass before going out to Lois and Ruth's to put up some eavestroughing.

Everyone's been very busy in the election campaign. I took the entire apratment here to canvass. I have done two complete door knocking canvasses and have still not manged to meet about 1/3d of the owners. But I have turned up some interesting people. No doubt I am now known as the NDP here, which is very good. I have circulated our paper among all the canvassers and we did a distribution at a public meeting which would have been attended by the more conscious elements in the apratment. And I have now after many years re-submitted my application for membershipin the NDP. The guy who is sponsoring my application is second in command of the NDP committee rooms . I told him about the provincial leadership rejecting the High Park appeal for me. I told him all--that I am unrevised and unrepentent. So we will see . Almost all our comrades are active in the campaign. Last night we distributed the paper to the big social affair

....

The May the 24th weekend we all went down to the camp....Lois.myself, Walter, Jeanette and Eleanor--your mother copped out. We got the last of the trilliums, but the blood root and Dutchmen's Breeches had gone. We swam in the quarry but I also went in the river which was fine., planted a few trees, cut the grass of the baseball diamond and had an excellent two team ball game, and finished a few repairs from the big breakin that had taken place a few weeks before. Every cabin had been broken into and things stolen from them. The doors were smashed in but there was no real vandalism. Fortunately they didn't care for my two Indian paques. I had finished the Nootka Screen. It is terrific and is hanging across the front of the 2nd floor bed room is Lois' lodge.

Last week Jerry suffered a very bad accident. He finally came to full consciousness yesterday after being in the hosptial Tuesday night I think. He was thrown off his bike at the Humber viaduct on Bloor. He probably looks fine now but he has smashed the ball of his leg bone and the pelvic socket. They will be operating on Wednesday. Fortunately he is in good health He will be recovering for 3 or 4 months We really wont know the score until they open him up and try to bind things together on Wednesday. You might write him an encouraging energizing letter

You say you would like my ideas on the proposal that Walter get away from the family. I think that you have to re-think this whole idea. As you have probalby heard he has got a shcooling project and job with the Crippled Civilians on Jarvis--in their shop repairing electric motors and TVs. This is just what he needed. I gather that he has been getting off to work every morning without a hitch. He is probably undergoing a considerable experience. I had an opportunity to suggest how he should conduct hiself with the young fellow who is his instructor and co-worker but not to get completely filled into the job. The idea that he shouldleave Unsworth is one of desperation for everyone else and a write-off for him. But now fortunately we may not be faced with such a terrible choice. This may well be such a big experience for him that some serious efforts on the parts of others may save the situation. I noticed that at the camp that Jeanettervand Elanor operate even in such a closed situation as if he did not exist. Perhaps we can all shake ourselves

a bit and begin anew. No doubt Denis' stay at Unsworth had some value in Walter's overcoming the loss of your dad. I suppose you know that that is the réal prdblem and that your mother has not really been of much hekp--on the gontrary.
Since you will only be dropping in and out again for the UAW mp on July 1 I think that we should cool this whole thing until the fall. There is a verygood possiblity that with some extra efforts on your part as you are passing through --taking him to a show or off to the Science Centre that we may be able to work things out so that we can set up a whole new set of relationships. He is wearing a crew cut now and looks quite sharp. Convince him to wear his sharp new suiit when you go out with him. He is really quite a handsome man. Help him gain some self respect and a feeling of self worth

Yes I tjink that it is a good idea to go to an English language shcool. It is good to learn French and to even develop a bilingual capacity. But biligualist Canada is a loi of bullshit.--a devise to block uebec independentism which has failed miserably. The uebecois quite correctly dont give a dmàn what we do--they are doing their thing as a nation--and from here it looks good. It was a good and useful visit widening your horizon and increasing your knowledge. But now you have to prepare yourselffor making a living and re-establisf your roots as an Alnglophone Canadian

We will see you in a few weeks

warmest regards

Ross

Send Jerry a note--he is at st Joseph's Hospital on the Queensway

Phone Sat 4:30 June 22 P
77

Alone

Wayne OK only to show letter
to him (asked) Jennings Ross, another
comedy known as Calvert

I say you come-des down with
one another up - Dale Nur Gord
understood = not building up grain
leader

We heard that from you

Hang up

R. Dowson
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto M4Y 2K2

July 12, 1977

Rods Dobson,
CBC
541 Portage Ave
Winnipeg.

Dear Sir;

Sorry for being so slow in taking up your request

I am not currently in contact with the following persons but they are the persons known to me who closest fit your spedifications which you must appreciate are rahter stiff: persons active on the left in the 20s and 30s(that would make them 47 to 57 years of age plus 10 to 20 years whic would make them in the enighborhood of 70 years of age) and still actively interested.

Rith and Reg Bullock - 354 West 16th Street, North Vancouver
Alex and Hattie Fergusson Vancouver area , known to Bullocks
Bill and Lillian Whitney Vancouver area " " "

Vic Bystrom Lloydminster
Jean Sloan, Lloydminster they are well known in the community

Stan Rands, Regina ,could be contacted through magazine Next Year Country who could give you other leads

Phil Hiebert, Saskatoon
Magnus Eliason--check with NDP office in Regina

Fred Tipping - Winnipeg ,contact thro NDP office there.

Nellie Peterson , Edmonton, Rita and several people associated with her in the Woodsworth-Irving Socialist Fellowship that could be contacted through the Alberta Democrat 5339 - 112th ave., Edmonton

A person whose name has slipped my mind but who writes a column in the Saskatchewan Commonealth but who lives in Winnipeg— The Winnipeg NDP ossice will know who C.B. is

(Letter ends)

July 12, 1977
#2311 - 40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto MiY 2k2

Elaine Bernard
#2 436 East 15th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Ms Bernard:

Sorry to be so long in answering your note of June 15. Unfortunately I have been working long hours and haven't had an opportunity to reply before now.

Of course I have certain materials on the Trotskyist movement in B.C. however I have not yet had an opportunity to really examine them and assess their value. The bulk of it is no doubt correspondecace that I as executive secretary of the movement carried on with various BC associates. The key persons I correspondend with are still active politically. I am wondering if you have been in touch with them. They are

Bill and Lillian Whitehy --address not known to me
but they would be listed in the phone book
Ruth and Reg Bullock, 351 West 16 th St., North Vancouver

I would be interested to know what their attitude is to making avaialble to you material that involves them. This would to some degree determine how I would handle material that I have involving them.

Drop me a note a week in advance of your intended arrival in Toronto so that I can put aside the necessary time for a discussion with you

sincerely

Rosa Jordon

July 15, 1977

xecutive of the Socialist League

Dear comrades;

With comrade Weisfeld's decision to take a job at York University the Toronto SL was faced with the necessity of moving quickly to enlist another comrade who is prepared to work full time for the movement. Until now we have had a full-time comrade who has functioned as organizer and who also staffed the store, with the help of a few comrades

Tonight comrade weisfeld told me that this week the store had been closed three of the six days that we schedule it to be open. Comrade Weisfeld was involved with his campus employment and was unable to enlist anyone else to fill in. So, by default we half closed the store this week, and it looks like this may continue to be the situation in the immediate period ahead, as comrade Weisfeld earlier warned us, when he decided to take the campus job.

It seems obvious that we have to make a decision about a full time staffer now--not wait until the fall comference, but act now.

Some while back we made the decision to have a full time staffer --as we know that this is not only the way to get things done but it gives a young and promising comrade the opportunity to develop as a leader. That staffer also assumed the responsibility of keeping the store open with the aid of a few other comrades who could put in the odd day--comrade Ross Dowson handled all the administration of the store. I t hink that decision was the only correct decision and we should continue along that line by immediately taking some other comrade on to carry on where comrade weisfeld is leaving off.

After exerting every effort to enlist a competent comrade to take advantage of this opportunity---and should we fail---then and only then in my opinion should we open up discussion of other possiblities which we may regretfull have to live with for as short a period as possible.

Because I understand that the executive has already been discussing other possiblities--I venture a few words that might be useful should we fail to enlist a younger comrade as a full time staffer and we have to move in a different direction.

Should we close the store down ? I understand this possiblity has been discussed. In my opinion this is a very wighty matter. The store gives the SL a high profile in the left in the key center -Toronto. Such a propose could only be considered should we (temporarily) fail to find a young comrade w.o would make hiself available to come on staff and grow as a revolutionary leader. Even then we should consider other ways of keeping the store open.

We might consider separating the operation of the store from the position of the organizer who will be functioning in the evenings and over the weekend with the aid of other comrades.

We might consider staffing the store with an older comrade who could fulfill this function and many other functions such as marking up the daily press and the political press for the editors and other such jobs thus [illegible] assuming some of the necessary routine tasks that would tend to overburden an organizer who is only free on weeknights and weekends.

But of course, in my opinion, the question of the organizer has to be first settled , hopefully by our having a comrade step forward who is prepared to work full time.

comradely

Ross Dowson

R. Dowson
40 Homewood Ave,. Apt 2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
July 22, 1977

Zane Boyd
Camp Towhee
Halliburton, Ont.
KOM 1So 457-9903 supper time

Dear Zane:

Just got back in from spending several days at the camp. Today I cleaned up the apartment a bit afater doing nothing for it over the month that I worked for DCIEM--Defence and Civil Institute of Enviornmental Medicine.

Yes ,before I left they happened to let me in with the rest of the cleaning staff on an assembly of all those working for DCIEM. The top chief addressed the gathering for about three quarters of a hour of how important this project is and has been becoming over the past four years--
DCIEM appears to be the envy of the NATO powers-has international fame .The speech for all its boastings was very weak in information of what we are doing. But it came through long and clear that all our research is tied into what various corporations involved in making undersea equipmentx are doing(making profit) We are making certain types of equipment, coming across and investigating various phenomenon all of which we quite selflessly(after all we are publicly financed) turn over to provate corporations, business of various sorts who pursue it in various ways in turn adding a bit to DCIEM knowledge which incidnelty pursues various lines of research that they appear to suggest to DCIEM. All very proper clean of any taint of socialization etc etc. But from what I could see the affair was mainly designed to wish godspeed to a former big chief who is leaving DCIEM . He said a few words--many of these guys are dif shots in the Br Navy which all applauded except for me. and we went back to scrubbing and cleaning. In two weeks I will get the bulk of my pay and then the final payments two weeks later w ich makes me happy to know the government has my wages interest free to do various things with

....

And so now once again I am looking for a part time job....and picking up a few things at the headquarters. Tuesday I will be picking up on the early Worker project

Dale gave an educational at the branch meeting a week last Wednesday. High praise for the Penner book which he says exp cunds the view that there have been three key questions challenging the Canadian (revolutionary) left - nationalism--the labor party, and Quebec. So in many ways it is our book. He doesn't so much as mention MacDonald whose expulsion along with Hector-Rodney stated marked the qualitative turning point for the CP--its Stalinization. But Dale gave me the impression that Penner sees the 21 points of admission to the CI as the turning point--that this event was the key one. I will be picking it up because it will be the key book for some time in all probability

Now ten to six and I must have supper and take over the store. Enclosed is our latest effort

Hope these few lines find you in good spirit and following y this banishment in the wilderness will result in your return to the good life — Rod (RD)

August 3, 1977
40 Homewood Ave., # 2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Nan-telephone 396 6230
1—613

Dear friends:

The 1977 Camp Poundmaker Incorporated Tax Bill is $ 272.51 plus .87 in penalties for 1976

1 long run

While there has been work done and some expenditures on the camp the work has been volumtary and the expenses of such an amount that they will be covered by the income accrued from what limited use that has been made of the camp facilities so far. The TSS and ES decided not to assign anyone to administer the lodge facilities however I have possession of some funds that have been turned over to me by persons known to me who have made use of the facilities. While the sum is small it should be sufficient to cover minimum maintenance

The break-in at the lodge reported by our neighbors and the police was attended to [illegible] and the damage fixed with materials that we had at hand. To our knowledge no equipment was taken. The fences are in bad need of repair. The east and south sides have been looked after. We hope that the rest will be attended to by voluntary labor. We have been able to mobilize sufficient labor to give minimum maintenance to the cabins on a volunteer basis.

Murray Dowson will have finished construction of his lodge by this fall. Bill Martin intends to establish a structure on his lot by the end of this fall. Thus, even though we have not been able to come to an agreement with regards to the allocation of the Harding lot, the camp has taken on a more structured form this year.

The pollution of the Napanee spring this year and the lack of rain has pointed to the need to get the well back into operation. The lodge has been operational only thanks to the transportation of water from [illegible] Toronto, and the shareholders, contrary to our agreement, have been left to their own devices as regards to water. Funds to get the well into operation must be allocated as soon as possible.

In the meantime, however the taxes which are now due and will be increasing with penalties must be paid at once. I have [illegible] taken it upon myself to divide the total into 45 instead of the 46 units. We did this last year because we felt that Shapiro should not be penalized due to our delay in completing the sale of his lot and I am doing it this year as I feel that Harding should not be penalized due to our failure to settle the sale of his lot. The charges are therefore as follows:

Bedard	11	66.84	Newbigging	1	6.08
Hugh	4	24.30	Bryant	1	6.08
TSS&ES	24	145.83	Riddell	1	6.08
Dowson M	1	6.08	Martin	1	6.08
Dowson R	1	6.08			

These funds should be sent to me to the above address immediately so that we can avoid penalties and protect the interests of the shareholders.

fraternally

Rod Dowson

(Note to self or mailed bulletin)

August 15, 1977

Last week we had an educational by Rods on the blows that Euro-Communism is dealing to the Stalinist myth that the world bourgeoisie has sustained for its own anti-socialist purposes-that the USSR is in any way socialist---and the promise that this has for the revival of socialism across the world in particular in European working class ~~xxxxxxx~~ movements.

Dale gave an interesting report on the new possiblities of developing a left wing in the Ontario NDP what with the devloping interest in finding an Ontario leader following the exposure of the Lewis administration bankruptcy

The editorial board meeting took place and the deadline for copy is next Monday--be sure you pick up your material .Harry has contacted you eh!

Abie is off on a holiday and Ross has agreed to take on the store

For all of you concerned HarryPis back and you will see his at Wednesday's meeting we expect. Dale is giving the educational on developments in municipal politics and the NDP

We have closed off the financial drive but some of us are behind on pledges and dues which we should rectify this coming Wednesday

see you

Left NDP Laughter

Bob —?

Karl K.

While we have been pulling together the lose ends of the financial drive Nick Shugalo on Vancouver sent us $150---50 more than last year to meet inflation.

Dale gave the e ducational on the challenge to socialists of various municipal issues. Related to this the branch voted to make the next weeks educational on the clean up of the YongeStreet strip--Big Business and its morality and the socialist view--Ross has agreed to give it.

We also adopted and educational on The Ferment in International Social Democracy--to be given by Bob--and another on Defence of the USSR in the Age of Nuclear Overkill--by Paul.

Incidently the meeting to urge Lochrin to run for the Ontario NDP leadership was attended by about 90 persons, including several MLA's and representative leaders from some 20 ridings.

There was a report by the Editorial Board. The scheduled deadline in the 22nd--with the dead-deadline Agusut 24

August 18, 1977

Cy Gonick
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Comrade Gonick:

We were happy to receive your note of solidarity last month.

Our failure to reply sooner arises from summer adminstrative problems. Your letter was forwarded along with other material up to Timmins where our editor has been working--and where incidently he is out of telephone contact.

Finnally, several days ago, Wayne dropped us a note telling us that rather than taking up your proposition on his own, he wanted to discuss this and other related proposals with us when he returns to Toronto in mid-September.

In the meantime I want to recognize receipt of your letter, the donation to our drive which will be put to very good use,and to have your OK to publish your letter in our letters to the editor column in the coming issue. If you do not say otherwise we will assume that it is OK to publish it.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

August 25, 1977

This coming Wednesday's internal will be the presentation by Randy of a document he has submitted on the Gay Liberation movement. Copies of the 11 page document should be obtained in advance from the store if you havent already got one.

There was a proxy report by Rozzie on the CARAL booth at the Ex. Unfortunatrly Harry was not at the meeting so we do not have an overview--but they need staffers and Harry's phone number is 466- 1307
Calvin gave a detailed report of the Labor Council meeting which Gord distributed. The CLC although it failed to smash the wage freeze and has resisted cooption in any post freeze phase out is now turning towards the issue of unemployment. It is now planning grass roots assemblies where we will have to initiate the demand for action to win a sliding scale of hours.

Ross educational on the ~~xinkpx~~Citoy tory administrations clean up campaign on Yonge Street--his line was that it is a non-issue with reactionary overtones--being non-class at best only allowing socialists an opportunity to make anti-capitalist ~~xxxxxxxxx~~--we shouldn't get involved . He disagreed with Bob that we commentaries should support legalization of prostitution and characterized prostitutes as declassed lumpen victims of capitalism .We want to work out a new meeting night for the coming fall and winter -think it over.

(Glenn) (Brantford) Sept 1/77

Dear John:

Enclosed please find OK with subs, cheque & comments included. The diagrams got us just in time for consideration of this issue paper which has been delayed by summer vacations & diversions. Can't believe that we are now having the Europeanization of America — whereas we used to talk about the Americanization of Europe x

Some very interesting stuff! The other night Gord was talking about our organizing a theatre night this fall (early) for a movie like Jonah who will be 25 in the year 2,000. Of course if I had to read all this stuff I would do none of the work that I have to do. Revolutionary responses are so wide & so diverse and so confused in America now that one could give on the various publications and goings surrounding them

Back to school — hope you are in some shape after your wanderings. And that the Brantford area NDP soon shows some life. I am still waiting impatiently to work my membership card in the St George NDP

comradely

Don

October 11, 1977

Re Camp Poundmaker
Dear Darrell:

I am suprised that I have not as yet heard from you with regards to my last letter--in particular with regards to point two. That notes that the TSS&ES has not yet paid its share of the taxes making us all liable to penalties.

I am now forwarding you an exerox ~~xxxxx~~m copy of the receipt that Zurich Insurance company has sent me for my advancing on your behalf the $128 premium on the lodge. As you will note they allowed this policy to drift-- it expired on the second of October--my payment got there on the fourth. I would appreciate your repayment of this amount to me as per our agreement.

I am also enclosing a copy of the letter they send which ~~xxxxx~~mentions in passing a matter you brought to my attention last year--the question as to in whose name the policy is listed. I told you at the time that I asked him to put it in the name of the corporation. He still has not done so,however he recognizes my request but in a way that I never suggested. Possibly he has some reason for writing : "Ross Dowson, in trust for Camp Poundmaker Incorporated." I will contact him about this.

Looking forward to your prompt reply on the above two financial matters

fraternally

Ross Dowson

I was hoping that someone would turn up from the TSS & ES and your associates to help in closing down the facilities for the winter which I told you I would be going out to do over the Thanksgiving weekend. No one turned up however Lois Bedard and I managed to get it all done. The doors on two of the small cabins have sprung however I think they will get through the winter OK. I noted that Murray has n ow got power into his cabin.

October 2, 1977

Toronto Social Science and Educational Society

Dear Darrell

There are several matters of importance now facing the corporation.

(1) A short while back I wrote you a note suggesting that you send me the Bell Telephone record of the long distance calls on the Camp phone as several of the shareholders told me that they had placed some and wanted to pay them off. Yesterday I received in the mail such a tally--but it was for last year. There is a notation that reads: "Steve Harding wrote letter xerexox of sm~~e~~t bills not paid yet." There was no covering note so that I am not positive what the notations mean and what you expect me to do about this bill.

I should tell you that at this time I do not intend to do anything about this last year bill which you attribute to Harding. My relation with this comrade is not very good. According to the agreement shareholders can cash their share. It is now going into the second year that comrade Harding informed me as an official of the corporation that he wished to cash in his share. As you know I have made several propositions with regards to its sale which have been frustrated. When we sell this lot and reiburse him for the full amount outstanding I am sure there will be no difficulty recouping this amount of $24.87.. In the meantime could you send me this years record which I am prepared to attempt to clear up.

(2) It is now October 2nd and up until this date I have not received payment from the TSS&ES, from Newbigging or from Riddell. to the sum of 145.83, 6.08 and 6.08. I have received no message of anykind from these shareholders, although I have sent them a second message bringing to their attention that we are now subject to penalties. Of course it is possible that the failure of these shareholders to meet their obligation on the taxes is due to an oversight. In that case I would appreciate it if younwould rectify this situation at once. If perchance it is not an oversight I would appreciate it if you would inform me what you expect me as a representative of the corporation along with comrade Hugh to do about this matter. I would appreciate a rapid response so that I could inform the other shareholders.

(3) In Friday's mail I received notification from John R Campbell that the insurance on the lodge of $128.00 is due on October 2--that is today. In view of the short time at our disposal and the difficulty of getting a response I have taken the liberty of advancing 128.00 of my ~~xxxx~~own so that our interests are not jeopardized. When I receive the receipt in the next couple of days I will forward ~~xxxx~~mit to you so that you can recompense me as to the agreement.

Looking forward to hearing from you

I will be going out to the camp this coming weekend and will see to it that it is closed down for the winter months.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

October 11, 1977

Vic Hugh

Dear Vic:

I half thought that I would see you atx the camp xxx over the holiday weekend. However I am noew enclosing two items of correspondence that will interest you.

Sooner or later if they do not reply we are going to have to take some action

Give me a call at your first convenience.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

I see a lot of your parphenalia is scattered aroun out there ,suggesting that you are going out shortly. If this is so how about taking out a plane so we can shut the door of cabin 3 properly...and a couple of thos e corrugated steel peices that can be used to tie the parts of the door together. Next year we must get some weather proof slabs to cover these indoor doors.

~~Todd~~ Oct 19/77

Dear Art

just a line in advance

As things are now shaping up the conference will be Nov 20

We are holding a social on Nov 12 at 1893 Davenport Rd #9

and a dance starting on Nov 4

Ford will be getting out a notice shortly —

Interesting re Dovercourt

Thought you would like an advance copy of the pamphlet. I think it reads well - and is the only thing to say on the issue.

Comradely

Ross

Interesting book on the store — The Goldhustlers by the resident geologist at Whitehorse for Geological Survey of Can along with Clements's Continental Corporate Power

Everywhere in the mass media and at every level in English Canada the Quebec people and in particular those who support the Parti Quebecois and have elected it into government power are under a concentrated and no-holds-barred attack . Even the majority of those forces that claim to support the right of to self-determination depict the projected referendum on sovereignty association as an elementary democratic right, as something totalitarian, hateful and even worth considering repressing.

We believe that the future of Quebec and its relations to the rest of Canada is the right of the Quebecois and the Quebecois alone to decide - and we should make this known.

While the PQ is not a labor formation such as the NDP it is our responsibility to make as widely known as possible the far reaching social legislation which they have implemented and from which we too can take inspiration. To not do so is to play into the hands of those forces in English Canada who have in the past and will continue to fight with all the power at their disposal our efforts to implement similar social legislation.

21/11/77

November.

1977

The annual conference of the Socialist League is being held this coming Sunday December 4 at 53 Gerrard St. W.

It will be called to order at 1, o'clock sharp. It will b e assumed that everyone has had lunch.

At the time of writing this note there will be three documents for presentation and discussion. An organizational report, a document on our NDP work and a contribution from the executive in response to Comrade R's earlier contribution on Gay Liberation. R's document was circulated 3 or 4 months back and we think that everyone has a copy. Copies are available at the office. We will attempt to circulate the other documents prior to the conference but it would be well to check this out with the office before Sunday.

Aside from F.C., no one who is not currently considered a member of the League has been invited so that no one will feel that the discussion is in anyway circumscribed. We expect all members to attend

December 13, 1977

NOTICE UNDER LIBEL AND SLANDER ACT

TAKE NOTICE that I, Ross Dowson, hereby complain of words spoken and published by agents and/or servants of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on or about the 7th day of December, 1977, in Ottawa, to R.M. McLeod, acting assistant deputy Attorney General of Ontario, as being slanderous. The words complained of are to the following effect:

> The RCMP have always acted in the belief that membership in a political party does not give immunity to anyone who would tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means and thereby attract the attention of the RCMP on the interest of national security.
>
> Between 1970 and 1973 the RCMP did conduct investigations into the activities of certain members of the Waffle group while it was still a part of the NDP.
>
> When the Waffle group came into being, it invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Canadian Trotskyists movements. The leaders of the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group.
>
> The RCMP investigation of certain members of the Waffle group established that subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence. Although the RCMP investigation concentrated on individuals of security interest, inquiries were broadened sufficiently to put the activities of these individuals in proper perspective. The investigation was de-emphasized after the NDP decided to rid itself of the Waffle. The individuals of concern to the RCMP, having lost the legitimacy of membership in the NDP, also lost interest in the Waffle. The RCMP concern with these individuals was not reduced but any concerns that the RCMP had that these subversive elements were using the Waffle as a means of penetrating the NDP and therefore as a means of acquiring credibility and influence was accordingly eliminated.

AND TAKE NOTICE that this notice is given to you pursuant to the provisions of The Libel and Slander Act, R.S.O. 1970, c. 243.

DATED at Toronto, this 13th day of December, 1977.

ROSS DOWSON, by his solicitor,
HARRY KOPYTO

TO: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police,

AND TO: The Federal Department of Justice.

Ex-official of socialist group

Dec 13/77

By LAWRENCE MARTIN

Ross Dowson, the former executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, has launched a suit against the RCMP alleging the Mounties slandered him and co-thinkers by implying they were subversives in a report tabled in the Ontario Legislature last Friday.

Harry Kopyto, counsel for Mr. Dowson, said his client specifically objects to the idea that the LSA ever promoted change brought on by violence or undemocratic means. He said yesterday he is serving notice of the suit this morning and that it will be fought in the Federal Court of Canada.

Friday's report was tabled by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in answer to allegations that certain radical members of the Ontario New Democratic Party were investigated by the RCMP in the early 1970s.

The report acknowledged the allegations and said tha "subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence."

The report said that when the Waffle came into being it invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. "These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of Canadian Trotskyists movements. The leaders for the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group."

Mr. Dowson, 60, a Toronto mayoralty candidate several times, was a leading member of the LSA from its inception in 1962 to its dissolution in 1974. The group was an amalgamation of various Trotskyist elements in Canada. Mr. Dowson defined Trotskyists in the Canadian context as "consistent, convinced socialists" who had "nothing to do with subversion."

Mr. Dowson said the LSA had a Canada-wide membership of 200 to 300. Its members were NDPers from the start and did not make entry to the party through the Waffle as the report suggests, he said.

Mr. Kopyto said that Mr. Dowson wants to try to clear his own name and by doing so "this will have the effect of clearing his co-thinkers."

Mr. Dowson said he also will pursue the matter through the McDonald Commission, the federal inquiry into alleged wrongdoing by the RCMP.

NDP Leader Stephen Lewis said yesterday he will leave further pursuit of the issue of the Waffle investigation to federal party leader Edward Broadbent.

The report on Friday left many unanswered questions, such as, did the investigation extend beyond just Waffle members in the party; was information on frictions within the party collected during the investigation passed on to

Bug found in MP's office checked at forensic centre

The bugging device found in Conservative MP Elmer MacKay's office in Ottawa last month is being examined at the Centre for Forensic Services in Toronto, Deputy Police Chief Thomas Welch of Ottawa said yesterday.

Chief Welch confirmed in an interview that the Ottawa police are making inquiries in Toronto as part of the force's investigation into the discovery of the bug in a chair in Mr. MacKay's office and a suspected bugging device found in a telephone in Opposition Leader Joseph Clark's conference room.

sues the RCMP for slander

the federal Government; was the federal Government or the Ontario Government made aware of the investigation prior to it; and what investigative methods were employed?

A spokesman for Mr. McMurtry said yesterday the Attorney-General would pursue unanswered questions, but only at the request of the provincial party. He said Mr. McMurtry's primary concern would be whether laws were broken during the investigation. The report indicated they were not, he said.

(draft dated in R.D.`s hand: Dec. 15/77 – his corrections in italics; marked "final")

IN THE FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA

TRIAL DIVISION

BETWEEN:

ROSS DOWSON PLAINTIFF

and

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DEFENDANT

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

FACTS

1. The Plaintiff, Ross Dowson, resides in the City of Toronto, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, *and up to* the year 1972 was the Executive Secretary and thereafter chairman of the League for Socialist Action, an unincorporated association, having its head office at that time in the City of Toronto, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. *These offices* provided for an emolument which the Plaintiff received *at all relative times*.

2. At the time when the alleged slanderous words herein after referred to were spoken and published of the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff was lawfully employed as a professional politician and political journalist and was in receipt of a salary as a result of duties he performed in those capacities.

3. The Defendant, Her Majesty the Queen, at all relevant times, was acting through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a national Police Force duly established pursuant to the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

4. The Plaintiff pleads and relies on Section 37 of the Federal Court of Canada Act, Chapter 10 (2nd Supp.) (1970-71-72, c. one).

5. On or about December 7th, 1977, the Defendant, through its agents and servants in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the identity of which is presently unknown to the Plaintiff falsely and maliciously spoke and published of and concerning the Plaintiff to R.M. McLeod, acting assistant deputy Attorney-General of the Province of Ontario, in the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, the following words or words to the following effect:

"The RCMP have always acted in the belief that membership in a political party does not give immunity to anyone who would tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means and thereby attract the attention of the RCMP on the interest of national security.

"Between 1970 and 1973 the RCMP did conduct investigations into the activities of certain members of the Waffle group while it was still a part of the NDP.

"When the Waffle group came into being, it invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Canadian Trotskyists movements. The leaders of the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group.

"The RCMP investigation of certain members of the Waffle group established that subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence. Although the RCMP investigation concentrated on individuals of security interest, inquiries were broadened sufficiently to put the activities of these individuals in proper perspective. The investigation was de-emphasized after the NDP decided to rid itself of the Waffle. The individuals of concern to the RCMP, having lost the legitimacy of membership in the NDP, also lost interest in the Waffle. The RCMP concern with these individuals was not reduced but any concerns that the RCMP had that these subversive elements were using the Waffle as a means of penetrating the NDP and therefore as a means of acquiring credibility and influence was accordingly eliminated."

6. The natural and ordinary meaning of the said words was that the Plaintiff had committed a crime for which he can be made to suffer physically by way of punishment under the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

7. The Plaintiff pleads that the words referred to were calculated to disparage and disparaged the reputation of the Plaintiff in the way of the calling practiced by him as a politician and political journalist, which calling was exercised by the Plaintiff at all relevant times herein.

8. Alternately, the Plaintiff pleads that the words referred to in paragraph 5, by innuendo, meant, were intended to mean and were understood to mean that the Plaintiff had been guilty of committing a criminal offence or criminal offences contrary to the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

9. The members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who had stated the words set out in paragraph 5 well knew and intended that the words set out in that paragraph should be (as the same in fact were, and it was natural and reasonable in the circumstances that they should be) repeated and published by the said R.M. McLeod to the public press and to the public in general and to the Attorney-General for the Province of Ontario, the Hon. Roy McMurtry and to the Legislature of the Province of Ontario and to Mr. Stephen Lewis, Leader of the New Democratic Party in the Province of Ontario, and to others who had knowledge of or contact with the Plaintiff in the course of his calling.

10. The Plaintiff states that the parts of the words hereinafter specified and taken from the alleged slanderous words spoken and published of the Plaintiff were meant by the Defendant and his agents or servants and were understood to mean by Mr. R.M. McLeod and those to whom the words were repeated by him that the Plaintiff was one of the persons referred to therein and the allegations contained therein were made of and concerning him, inter alia. In this respect the Plaintiff, Ross Dowson, relies on the fact that he was the Executive Secretary of the League for Socialist Action from the time of the founding of the League for Socialist Action in 1961 until 1972 and thereafter its chairman. In this respect the Plaintiff, Ross Dowson, further relies on the fact that he was the official spokesperson and representative of the League for Socialist Action and a member thereof at all relevant times and that he had been publicly identified as a member of the League for Socialist Action and, together with the prominent position held by him in the League for Socialist Action, was considered by many to be its foremost spokesperson. He further relies on the fact that he had been publicly identified and had publicly identified himself as a Trotskyist on numerous occasions since 1934. He further relies on the fact that his history in this regard is well known among political activists and theorists with whom he came in contact in the course of his profession as a political activist and journalist and in the course of his discharge of his duties as the Executive Secretary of the League for Socialist Action from 1961 until his designation as its chairman.

11. The parts of the slanderous words which the Plaintiff alleges referred to him, inter alia, are as follows:

"When the Waffle group came into being, it invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Canadian Trotskyists movements. The leaders of the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group."

12. The Plaintiff states that he was understood by his friends and political associates and those with whom he wished to influence politically as being one of the persons referred to as a "subversive" and as "anyone who would tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means and thereby attract the attention of the RCMP on the interest of national security".

13. By reason of the premises, the Plaintiff has been greatly injured in his character, credit and reputation and his ability to discharge his duties as a political activist and journalist have been severely curtailed.

RELIEF SOUGHT

14. The Plaintiff therefore claims as follows:

(a) Special damages in the amount of $50,000.00;

(b) General, punitive and exemplary damages in the amount of $450,000.00.

Dated at Toronto the 15th day of December, 1977.

Harry Kopyto,

Counsel for the Plaintiff

4. The Plaintiff pleads and relies on Section 37 of the Federal Court of Canada Act, Chapter 10 (2nd Supp.) /1970-71-72, c. one7.

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to suffer physically by way of punishment under the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

7. The Plaintiff pleads that the words referred to were calculated to disparage and disparaged the reputation of the Plaintiff in the way of the calling practiced by him as a politician and political journalist, which calling was exercised by the Plaintiff at all relevant times herein.

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10. The Plaintiff states that the parts of the words hereinafter specified and taken from the alleged slanderous words spoken and published of the Plaintiff were meant by the Defendant and his agents or servants and were understood to mean by Mr. R.M. McLeod and those to whom the words were repeated by him that the Plaintiff was one of the persons referred to therein and the allegations con-

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from the time of the founding of the League for Socialist Action in 1961 until 1972 and thereafter its chairman. In this respect the Plaintiff, Ross Dowson, further relies on the fact that he was the official spokesperson and representative of the League for Socialist Action and a member thereof at all relevant times and that he had been publically identified as a member of the League for Socialist Action and, together with the prominent position held by him in the League for Socialist Acticn, was considered by many to be its foremost spokesperson. He further relies on the fact that he had been publically identified and had publically identified himself as a Trotskyist on numerous occasions since 1934. He further relies on the fact that his history in this regard is well known among political activists and theorists with whom he came in contact in the course of his profession as a political activist and journalist and in the course of his discharge of his duties as the Executive Secretary of the League for Socialist Action from 1961 until his designation as its Chairman.

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Dated at Toronto the 15th day of December, 1977.

Harry Kopyto,
Counsel for the Plaintiff